

In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/626,969
Filing Date: JULY 25, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (Board) for reversing the previous rejections of the claims in light of Applicant's Appeal Brief and Reply Brief. Applicant thanks the Examiner for extending all courtesies during a telephonic interview of September 27, 2007, and for reaffirming that dependent Claims 9-11 recite patentable subject matter.

During the telephonic interview, the rejection of the claims was discussed, as well as certain amendments to more clearly define the claimed subject matter over the prior art, which were favorably received by the Examiner. Independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 have been amended herein to more clearly define the claimed invention over the prior art. The subject matter of dependent Claims 3, 14, and 32, now canceled, has also been incorporated into respective independent Claims 1, 12, and 30. Dependent Claims 2, 6-7, 13, 17, 21-24, 31, and 35-36 have also been amended for consistency with the changes to the independent claims. Based upon the arguments and claim amendments presented herein, Applicant submits that all claims are patentable.

I. The Amended Claims

Amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a vehicle security system for a vehicle of a type comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and connected to a plurality of vehicle devices. The data communications bus carries data and address information thereover. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the

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vehicle security system includes a plurality of vehicle security sensors interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the plurality of vehicle security sensors comprises a pre-warn sensor having a lower sensitivity for generating a pre-warning signal, and an alarm sensor having a higher sensitivity for generating an alarm signal depending upon a sensed threat level. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph 54 of the present application.

The vehicle security system also includes an alarm indicator, and a vehicle security controller interfacing with the vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information for causing the alarm indicator to generate a pre-warning indication based upon the pre-warning signal, or for causing the alarm indicator to generate an alarm indication based upon the alarm signal. Amended independent Claim 30 is a method counterpart to Claim 1 and has been similarly amended. Amended independent Claim 20 is directed to a vehicle security device subcombination of Claim 1, and has been similarly amended.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a vehicle security system similar to Claim 1, and has been similarly amended. Amended independent Claim 37 is method counterpart to Claim 12 and has been similarly amended. Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a vehicle security device subcombination of Claim 12, and has been similarly amended.

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II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Board rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 over Nykerk in view of Applicant's admitted prior art or Voss or Leen, and separately over Boreham in view of Nykerk. These independent claims now recite a plurality of vehicle security sensors comprising a pre-warn sensor having a lower sensitivity for providing the pre-warning signal, and an alarm sensor having a higher sensitivity for providing the alarm signal. In the rejection of former dependent Claims 3, 14, and 32, the subject matter of which has been added to the independent claims herein, the Examiner cited the Hwang '407 patent (Hwang). Differently, Hwang discloses a security system comprising a plurality of sensors with respective signals coupled to a one-shot timer. (Col. 2, lines 45-57). Upon receipt of an activation signal from a sensor, the alarm circuit chirps the alarm. If a predetermined number of activation signals are received from a sensor after the first activation signal, the alarm circuit sounds the full alarm. (Col. 1, lines 31-48). Hwang also discloses that the sensitivity of the sensor may be adjusted. Nonetheless, Hwang does not disclose the vehicle security sensors comprising a pre-warn sensor having a lower sensitivity for providing the pre-warning signal, and an alarm sensor having a higher sensitivity for providing the alarm signal, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example.

Nykerk also fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention. The system of Nykerk comprises a proximity sensor generating both the pre-warn alert signal and the full alarm signal. (Col. 4, lines 6-34). Nykerk also discloses

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FLICK
Serial No. 10/626,969
Filing Date: **JULY 25, 2003**

that the proximity sensor has adjustable sensitivity. (Col. 17, lines 57-60). Nevertheless, Nykerk also fails to disclose the vehicle security sensors comprising a pre-warn sensor having a lower sensitivity for providing the pre-warning signal, and an alarm sensor having a higher sensitivity for providing the alarm signal, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example. Moreover, none of the other cited references makes up for this critical deficiency of Hwang.

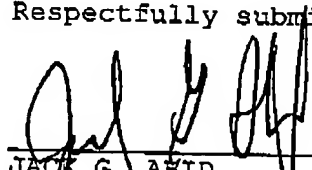
Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30, and 37 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments and claim amendments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 1st day of October, 2007.

